

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230275

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION STATE INFO ALGIERS, ABU DHABI, BEIRUT,
BOMBAY, DHAHRAN, THE HAGUE, KUWAIT, LONDON, MANAMA, NEW DELHI,
PARIS, RABAT, ROME, TEHRAN, TRIPOLI, AND TUNIS FROM JIDDA
NOVEMBER 20, REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5136

DEPT PASS CAIRO; BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD; KUWAIT PASS DOHA
AND MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IN, SA

SUBJECT: INDIA JOINS LIST OF PREFERRED COUNTRIES

REF NEW DELHI 13096 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: INDIA HAS JOINED LIST OF PREFERRED COUNTRIES AND
WILL RECEIVE CRUDE SUPPLY EITHER ON BASIS OF FIRST NINE
MONTHS' AVERAGE OR THE LIFTINGS FROM SAUDI ARABIA DURING MONTH
OF SEPTEMBER, WHICHEVER HIGHER. SPECIAL DIFFICULTY OF ESSO
REFINERY NOTED IN REFTTEL STEMS FROM LOW AVERAGE DUE TO LONG
PERIOD DURING WHICH REFINERY SHUT DOWN FOR REPAIRS EARLIER
THIS YEAR. INDIAN EMBASSY HOPES TO RECEIVE PERMISSION FOR
HIGHER LIFINGS FOR ESSO. END SUMMARY.

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1. INVOLVED NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO PLACING INDIA ON IST OF THOSE COUNTRIES WITH PREFERRED STATUS HAVE BEEN DETAILED TO US BY INDIAN EMBASSY. ARGUING THAT INDIA HAD LONG RECORD OF PRO-ARAB ACTIONS AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME PREJUDICES OF KING FAISAL OVER ITS ROLE IN BANGLADESH IN 1971. SAG OFFICIALS ALSO DROPPED THEIR DEMAND THAT ISRAELI CONGEN IN BOMBAY BE CLOSED. INDIA IS THIRD COUNTRY TO BE ADDED TO LIST AFTER SPECIAL PLEADING (TURKEY AND BRAZIL WERE ADDED EARLIER).

2. INDIAN EMBASSY HAD TO ARGUE THAT MRS. GANDHI COULD NOT AFFORD CLOSURE OF ISRAELI CONGEN IN BOMBAY. OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE OVER SUCH KOWTOWING TO ARABS. AMB. AHMAD STATED TO BOTH MINPETROLEUM YAMANI AND MINSTATE FOR FONAFF SAQQAF THAT INDIA HAD A CLEAR RECORD ESPOUSING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS UNDER UN RESOLUTION 242. KING HIMSELF AGREED NOVEMBER 10 TO ADDING INDIA TO COUNTRIES EXEMPT FROM CUT IN OFF-TAKE.

3. ESSO REFINERY PROBLEM (REFTEL) STEMS FROM RECORD OF RELATIVELY LOW LIFTINGS DUE TO REFINERY BEING DOWN FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE DURING MUCH OF SUMMER MONTHS. INDIAN EMBASSY IS APPEALING TO DEPUTY MINISTER PETROLEUM FOR EXCEPTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHER LEVELS BUT THERE IS NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT THIS WILL BE GRANTED.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT GROUND RULES FOR PREFERRED COUNTRIES PERMIT THEM TO CHOOSE EITHER NINE-MONTH AVERAGE OR LEVEL OF SAUDI OIL SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER. THIS MAY BE USEFUL TO ESSO.
AKINS

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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